



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
*Washington Soldiers Home and Colony*

November 4, 2020

Dear Soldiers Home Family or Representative,

This afternoon, we received confirmation that one of our employees at the Soldiers Home was diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee is now self-isolated at home. We will stay in contact with them to ensure they get the care they need.

The employee is an on-call employee that does not work in the skilled nursing facility, their last work day was October 26 and symptom onset and testing occurred several days after the 26th. The employee, and all other employees they interacted with during their shift, was wearing appropriate PPE. After consultation with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, we have determined that the employee presents a low risk of exposure to residents, so no additional testing of residents is scheduled at this time.

All staff working in resident areas of our State Veterans Homes are wearing medical procedure masks and eye protection and we are asking all staff to pay close attention to whether they have any symptoms, including the presence of a fever.

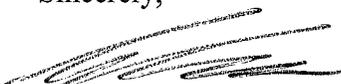
We continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding regular testing of all employees. Based on COVID-19 positivity rates in Pierce County, we are conducting this testing on a monthly basis.

As part of our ongoing screening process, all staff are screened upon arrival at work each day. This process includes a series of questions around whether symptoms are present and a temperature check. In addition, are also asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

In an effort to provide information as quickly and accurately as possible, we have developed a website to provide information to families and resident representatives, <https://www.dva.wa.gov/covid>.

If you have any questions please contact Robert Pence, Administrator at 360-893-4515

Sincerely,

  
Robert Pence, NHA  
Washington State Soldiers Home